

32 Wilmington Street 6/19 - 1885

Dear Dr. Gray.

Bro' Verin has handed me your list and delighted me with your report. I do not know if he will answer your queries - but will venture to reply to some and if he does latter on no harm will be done - the reports ought to harmonize.

5. *Astragalus Verinii* - apparently rare, undoubtedly perennial.
13. *Gilia multicaulis* - am glad you stand out for this. - N. insisted on a "maris nest" - but the proper tube of corolla is no longer than calyx and the more finely dissected foliage is certainly not enough grounds to warrant nov. sp.
18. *Eriophyllum Verinii* - send separate note on this fellow.
19. *Demissa Lyoni* - slightly woody at base ~~not one~~ one to two feet high - not enough (tho' perennial) to be called even "suffruticulosa"
21. *Thalictrum foliosum* - Inclined to think it is C. would not swear.

I have been presumptuous enough
to attempt to diagnose *E. Vironii*
not so much to get out of leading
strings, as to know if it were within
my scope to do so - in case your
indomitable energy ever flags, and
the whole country has not you
to fall back upon.

May I not ask your kindly criticism?
by that, I mean your honest criticism
even if it burns me up.

It was not made with any
intention of rushing into print,
but simply to ascertain if having
eyes I knew how to use them
and, I knew that any quiet laugh
you might have at my expense
would be tempered with good
advice and a real desire for
my advancement & help.

Perhaps close relationship with
E. stachydisifolium makes specific
delimitation all the more difficult
for a tyro - and I may not have
taken as I tried, the simplest of

our new species - for my incipient
lucubrations - and as I feel that
your time is too valuable now
for leaching, I shall only bore you
to the extent of saying you
approve or disapprove.

Had you take up *Phacelia*
I'll send you *P. longipes* Torr.
which seems to be desideratum -

Give to hear Mr Watson is sick
Have a small p/age for him
in which I will send you
Phacelia - trust he will not
be appalled by the amt of
pigro that are doubtless
awaiting him. Hope will return
strong & well to the attack.

Deepest regards to Mrs Gray
Most respectfully yours
Wm. J. Lyon

P.S. Thanks for the compliment in
nomenclature - even if undeserved.